

FOR MEMORY BOOK

by Betty Glaz

After earning my college degree at age 49 in 1993, one of the first things I did was join AAUW—at the invitation of Barbara Moxon. I felt my membership was a reward for my endurance at sitting in classes with students approximately the ages of my own two children. If you want to know the experiences I had at being the oldest student in all my classes, just ask me. Do I have stories to tell!

My membership has meant a lot to me. Because of Barbara's persistent urging (you know how she operates), I quickly became involved in AAUW activities, even assuming leadership roles. This has allowed me to get to know more people and make many new friends. ~~Leadership, at times, has been frantic for me. I like to be of assistance and often take on more than I can handle. But, I have learned to set my boundaries and say "no" when I cannot handle another task.~~ I encourage new members to dip their toes in the waters of AAUW activities and volunteer for committees. It's a great way to meet more members.....and we need you!

As for changes in women's rights that I witnessed, there are many. Remember the "Help Wanted" ads designed for "Men" and "Women?" Remember leaving your jobs when you were pregnant and began to show because employers stated some vague reason about insurance liability? My cruelest memory was a heart breaker. At age 23 I applied for a secretarial position at a large pharmaceutical company in New Jersey. They gave me a battery of tests and I scored five points higher than the average for a college grad. I was so proud. They were impressed yet refused to hire me. ***"You're young, newly married, and Catholic. We won't hire you because you'll probably get pregnant and leave."*** It was 1967 and that's the way it was!